



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1867-07-12

Letter from John Muir to Janet and Charles Moores, 1867 Jul 12

John Muir

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[1867]

(Mailed at Port Hope Wis. July 13.)

At Sarah's Friday July 12 [1867]

Dear little friends Janet & Chas. I thank you very much indeed for your gifts. Merrill & I looked down, down, down into your eyes for a long time, and we were very glad to see you. I think the pictures are real good ones, - You were not cross were you Chas? I thought that you had been either very tired or very grave, but could not see any portion of bull dog - & I think that if your Aunt Kate were to look again she would not compare your cross face to any fighting, biting thing whatever.

We rec'd your letter yesterday and last evening M & I took a walk to the mound on the hill. It was a fine evening - the clouds which attended the sunset were grandly colored, those toward the east were like wool, but toward the west were laid in level layers at the bottom with high banks and broken rocky blocks piled on the top. We could see beautiful, waving, swelling green hills wherever we turned. When we were enjoying all this I suddenly thought of the little Hoosier photographs in my pocket and said to Merrill - O let Janet & Charles see our hollow, & so Janet I showed you all around & told you to look at the green smooth hills that walled in the hollow & at those that were blue and far away, & at the mound and the Fox river & the sky. M. had Chas. - he held him down to look into a little hole that a gopher or squirrel had made in the mound, & then he held him up and said "Look Charles, look, look at the moon - look all around & remember all you see to tell Mama tomorrow morning.", but he soon began to think about the Indian bones, & copper pots, & arrow heads that might be in the big mound. He said - wouldn't it be queer if Janet and Chas. should dream of this place tonight.

11 Telegraph

We felt as (if) you were with us & when we were in bed I said
O! we forgot to bid J & C good night, and Merrill said "never mind. You kissed
them on the hill & that will do.

We are quite well. You ask Janet what we are doing, well we are visiting
friends, & flowers, & places, - I was sorry to hear through M that so long
a blank had occurred in our correspondence. Some letter had been lost or
detained. We will try to write a little oftener to allow for such losses.
I was glad to hear that your mother & Aunt Kate were better. I am glad that
you & Chas have written to me.

Raspberries are ripe here too, M & I get plenty of wild strawberries
yet. I hope those birth days you mention were pleasant. Your circle of
birthdays is a very large one. Remember me to Katie Graydon & all my friends.
Please tell Aunts Kate & Mina that I think they might have written me in
this time. Write to me again I will be glad to hear from you. We are going
up to father's again in a few days. Merrill is learning to speak Scotch. He
wrote to you Janet a few days ago. I am in haste. Good bye. Very truly
your friend John Muir.

To Janet D. Moores
and Charles F. Moores
Indianapolis